

Message Text

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14

ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 JUSE-00 FBIE-00 USSS-00 SY-05

CPR-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 L-03 H-02

PA-01 PRS-01 DODE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

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O 190025Z FEB 76

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5908

INFO CONSUL LENINGRAD IMMEDIATE 182

AMEMASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE USUN NEW YORK 00611

DEPT PASS JUSTICE - FRANK NILAND AND JAMES ROBINSON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, UR

SUBJECT: SIT-IN AT TASS NEWS AGENCY

1. AT APPROXIMATELY 11:35 AM, FEBRUARY 18, THIRTEEN YOUTHS (MEMBERS OF BETAR-BRITH TRUMPELDOR OF AMERICA - A JEWISH ACTIVIST ORGANIZATION) ENTERED OFFICES OF TASS AGENCY, 5TH FLOOR, 50 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA, AND STAGED SIT-IN. THEY CHANTED SLOGANS AND WERE GENERALLY NOISY BUT CAUSED NO INJURY OR PROPERTY DAMAGE. THEY WERE REMOVED BY POLICE AND FBI AT 1:25 PM AND ARRESTED UNDER ACT FOR PROTECTION OF FOREIGN OFFICIALS AND ARRAIGNED IN FEDERAL COURT.

2. ACCESS TO TASS OFFICES WAS GAINED WHEN ONE OF THE THIRTEEN INDUCED

A TASS EMPLOYEE TO OPEN THE DOOR UPON WHICH REMAINING TWELVE FOLLOWED HIM IN. GROUP IMMEDIATELY SAT DOWN AND BEGAN CHANTING BUT WERE OTHERWISE ORDERLY. THEY DISTRIBUTED PAMPHLETS WHICH INDICATED THEY WERE PROTESTING IMPRISONMENT OF DR. SHTERN WHO THEY CLAIM WAS ARRESTED IN SOVIET UNION MAY 29, 1974 FOR
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WANTING TO EMIGRATE TO ISRAEL AND SENTENCED ON DECEMBER 31, 1974

TO EIGHT YEARS IN PRISON. TASS NOTIFIED NEW YORK CITY POLICE AT APPROXIMATELY 11:40 AM AND TWO POLICE OFFICERS WERE ON THE SCENE WITHIN A PERIOD OF 3-5 MINUTES. POLICE NOTIFIED FBI AND USUN AT APPROXIMATELY 11:50 AM.

3. AMB SHERER RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM USSR AMB MAKEYEV AT 11:55 AM. HE INFORMED THE AMBASSADOR THAT "TWENTY OR TWENTY-FIVE PEOPLE FROM THE JDEL" HAD "CAPTURED" TASS OFFICE IN ROCKEFELLER CENTER AND HAD DESTROYED MUCH OF ITS CONTENTS. MAKEYEV ASKED SHERER TO TAKE URGENT MEASURES TO STOP THE "VIOLENCE" AND TO MAKE SURE THAT THOSE RESPONSIBLE WERE ARRESTED.

4. WHEN THE FIRST TWO POLICE OFFICERS ARRIVED, TASS ASKED THAT THE DEMONSTRATORS BE REMOVED. POLICE ATTEMPTED TO GET INTRUDERS TO LEAVE VOLUNTARILY BUT THEY REFUSED, INDICATING THEY WANTED TO BE ARRESTED. POLICE ASKED THAT EITHER A MEMBER OF TASS OR ASSOCIATED PRESS (OWNERS OF PREMISES) ACT AS COMPLAINANT SINCE POLICE COULD NOT REMOVE ANYONE WITHOUT MAKING AN ARREST. NEITHER WAS WILLING.

5. REPRESENTATIVES OF FBI ARRIVED AT TASS OFFICES AT APPROXIMATELY 12:10 PM. AFTER REQUESTING AND RECEIVING AUTHORIZATION FROM ASSISTANT US ATTORNEY THOMAS EDWARDS, FBI REQUESTED POLICE TO MAKE ARRESTS UNDER THE FEDERAL ACT WHICH DOES NOT REQUIRE A COMPLAINANT. POLICE REINFORCEMENTS AND A POLICE VAN WERE SUMMONED. THE VAN WAS POSITIONED IN BASEMENT OF 50 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA AND AT APPROXIMATELY 1:25 PM THE THIRTEEN DEMONSTRATORS WERE ESCORTED FROM TASS OFFICES ONTO A FREIGHT ELEVATOR AND PLACED IN THE WAITING POLICE VAN. THEY WERE TAKEN TO US COURT HOUSE, SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, AT FOLEY SQUARE TO BE ARRAIGNED BEFORE A FEDERAL MAGISTRATE. RESULTS OF THE ARRAIGNMENT AND DATE OF NEXT HEARING WILL BE FURNISHED WHEN AVAILABLE.

6. AMB MOYNIHAN, WHO WAS PRESIDING OVER SECURITY COUNCIL AT TIME OF SIT-IN, KEPT SOVIETS APPRISED OF DEVELOPMENTS INCLUDING ARREST AND REMOVAL OF INTRUDERS WHEN IT OCCURRED. AMB MOYNIHAN OFFERED APOLOGIES TO SOVIET DEPUTY PERMREP KHARLAMOV.

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MOYNIHAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: JEWS, STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS, ARRESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
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